

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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P R 051327Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3388

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF JH

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS HAMBURG 0722

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJ: HAMBURG MAY DAY CELEBRATION

1. DESPITE, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF, SUNNY WEATHER, FEWER PEOPLE ATTENDED THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN HAMBURG THAN USUAL. MEDIA ESTIMATES RANGED FROM TWENTY TO FORTY THOUSAND PERSONS. WE ESTIMATE THAT BETWEEN TEN AND TWELVE THOUSAND PEOPLE MARCHED IN PARADE TO THE DEUTSCHE GEWERKSCHAFTSCHAFT BUND (DGB) BUILDING WHERE THEY JOINED ANOTHER EIGHT THOUSAND PEOPLE ALREADY ASSEMBLED TO LISTEN TO THE DAY'S ROUND OF SPEECHES.

2. MOST OF THE MARCHERS WERE YOUNG, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THOSE ALREADY PRESENT IN THE SQUARE WERE MIDDLE-AGED OR OLDER. UNLIKE LAST YEAR, WHEN CERTAIN SLOGANS AND BANNERS INCONSISTENT WITH APPROVED DGB POLICY WERE BANNED, NO RESTRICTIONS WERE PLACED ON PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR. ALL HUES OF RADICAL LEFTIST OPINION RESPONDED TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY THEIR TRUE COLORS. ONE QUARTER OF THE MARCHERS BELONGED TO RADICAL PARTIES SUCH
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AS THE DKP, THE KPD/ML, AND THE KOMMUNISTISCHER BUND. ANOTHER

QUARTER OF THE MARCHERS WERE FOREIGN WORKERS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR TENUOUS JOB SECURITY. ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE UNIFORMED BUNDESWEHR SOLDIERS MARCHED ALONG. A FEW EVEN WORE KPD STICKERS ON THEIR LAPELS. DESPITE THE PARTICIPATION OF MYRIAD RIVAL SECTS, THE TWO-HOUR MARCH WAS PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY. A SIZEABLE CONTINGENT OF POLICE COVERED THE RALLY BUT HAD LITTLE TO DO EXPECT MIX IN THE CROWD.

3. THE SPEAKERS FOR THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY WERE LESS GLAMOROUS THAN LAST YEAR WHEN FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND DGB CHIEF VETTER SPOKE. THE FOUR SPEAKERS, HAMBURG MAYOR KLOSE, HILDEGARD PSCHUNDER, WHO, IN DEFERENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN, BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO ORATE ON THIS OCCASION IN HAMBURG, FINANCE MINISTER APEL, AND IG METALL CHAIRMAN LODERER, WERE UNINSPIRING. ASIDE FROM A STEADY CHORUS OF CATCALLS PUNCTUTATED BY SHRILL WHISTLING THAT EMANATED FROM CLUSTERS OF RADICAL GROUPS, THE SPEECHMAKING PASSED UNEVENTFULLY.BERRY

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